



Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards Announces Winners of 27 Awards Honouring Excellence in Aboriginal Music

Toronto, November 25, 2005... The 7th annual **Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards** gala this evening was a star-studded celebrity event where 27 awards were presented to honour the work and achievements of outstanding Aboriginal musicians and industry members in Canada.

The big winner of the evening was **Tagaq's** CD "**Sinaa**" with three awards. Two awards each went to Winnipeg's **Little Hawk**, **Ryan D'Aoust**, also from Manitoba, and Cape Breton's **Forever**.

Manitoba artists shone in the spotlight, with a total of eight awards going to six Manitoba artists, including Little Hawk, Ryan D'Aoust, Burnt, Kimberly Dawn, Lisa Meeches & Kyle Irving, and Hank Horton. Following Manitoba, four Awards went home with Alberta artists, four awards were presented to winners from Canada's north (NWT and Nunavut), Saskatchewan artists earned three awards, and three awards were presented to winners from Ontario.

Tagaq's CD "**Sinaa**" received three awards: **Best Female Artist** for Tanya 'Tagaq' Gillis, **Best Producer/Engineer** for producer Juan Hernandez and engineer Jose "Triki" Trincado, and **Best Album Design** for Oscar Poza & Montse. Members of this outstanding team are from Nunavut.

Best Album of the Year and **Best Folk Album** honours went to **Little Hawk** for his CD "**1492-1975.**" Little Hawk, a.k.a. Troy Westwood, is from Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Cape Breton, Nova Scotia's **Forever** also took home two awards: **Best Rock Album** and **Best Music Video** for the recording "**Something to Dream Of**" and the video of the same name.

Ryan D'aoust, a 16-year-old left-handed fiddler from Norway House, Manitoba received the **Best Fiddle Album** Award for his CD "**Southside of the Strings**," and the **Galaxie Rising Stars Award**, granted by Galaxie, CBC's Continuous Music Network, to a promising newcomer in Aboriginal Music.

The **Best Female Traditional/Cultural Roots Album** award went to **Asani** for "**Rattle & Drum**." Asani is a contemporary a cappella Aboriginal women's trio hailing from Alberta.

Diga a Tlicho (Dogrib) musician from Fort Rae, NWT, was named **Best Male Artist**. His CD is called "**Earth is Crying**".

The honours for **Best Group or Duo** went to **Burnt Project 1**, the eleven member ensemble based in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Burnt's CD "**Hometown**" blends blues, jazz, rock, funk and traditional First Nations sounds.

Jason Burnstick & the Rhythm received the **Best Instrumental Album** Award for "**Burn**." Burnstick lives in Vancouver, B.C., where he blends the sounds and rhythms of Latin music and his Cree roots.

Alberta's **Carl Quinn** was named **Best Songwriter** for the title song on his CD "**Ni Ototem**," whose goal is to promote, preserve and share the Cree language.

Kimberly Dawn's song "**Spirit of Our People**" won the **Best Song/Single** honours. Dawn is from Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Lisa Meeches & Kyle Irving took the **Best Television Program** Award home to Winnipeg, for the program "**First Nation Invasion**". This is the first year that the Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards celebrate the producers with the Best Television Program Award.

Northern Quebec's **Beatrice Deer** received the **Best Inuit Cultural Album** Award for "**Just Bea**". This the first year of the Best Inuit Cultural Album Award.

The **Best Blues Album** went to **The WolfPack** for their CD, "**Family Thang**." The WolfPack is a family of siblings, aged 23-30, from Six Nations, Ontario.

Blackstone, from the Sweetgrass First Nation in Saskatchewan, was honoured with **Best Pow Wow Album - Contemporary** Award for “**Back in the Day.**”

The **Best Rap or Hip Hop Album** Award was handed to **Eekwol** for her CD “**Apprentice to the Mystery.**” Eekwol is from the Muskoday First Nation in Saskatchewan.

“**Honky Tonk Heartache Blues**” earned **Hank Horton** the **Best Country Album** Award. Abie Parenteau a.k.a. “Hank Horton” is from Duck Bay, Manitoba.

Painted Horse received the **Best Pow Wow Album - Traditional** Award for “**Blackfoot Songs**”. The Painted Horse singers hail from the Cree, Blood, Blackfoot, Peigan and Tsuii Tina Nations and are currently based in Calgary.

The **Best Hand Drum Album** Award was presented to **Northern Cree** from Saddle Lake, Alberta, for the CD “**Sweethearts Shuffle.**”

Joanne Shenandoah was awarded with the **Best International Album** Award for her recording, “**Skywoman.**” Shenandoah is a Wolf Clan member of the Iroquois Confederacy – Oneida Nation, and calls Oneida, NY, USA home.

Willie Dunn was honoured with the **Lifetime Contribution to Aboriginal Music Award**, presented to an individual who dedicates a large part of their life and career to promoting and developing Aboriginal music. Willie Dunn is singer, songwriter, musician, playwright, artist, director, award-winning filmmaker, and First Nations ambassador, who lives in Ottawa, Ontario.

Allan Beaver was awarded the **Keeper of Traditions in Aboriginal Music Award**, presented to an individual dedicated to teaching Aboriginal culture through music. Allan Beaver is an accomplished athlete, public speaker, well-known for his heartwarming gospel music and an excellent role model. He is a member of the Bigstone Cree Nation, and lives in Alberta.

The **Music Industry Award**, presented to an individual, Aboriginal or non-Aboriginal who is making or has made a significant positive impact on Canadian Aboriginal music, will be presented to music journalist and author **Brian Wright-McLeod**. The launch of Brian Wright-McLeod's book, ***Encyclopedia Of Native Music*** (The University of Arizona Press/University of British Columbia Press) and its' musical companion **The Soundtrack Of A People**, took place at the Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards. Brian is Dakota/Anishnabe and lives in Toronto, Ontario.

The Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards acknowledge and honour the keepers, teachers, promoters, creators and performers of Aboriginal music. The Awards promote the diversity in, and celebrate the excellence of, Aboriginal music; they recognize the unique vision of Aboriginal musicians, and they encourage this rich cultural voice.

The Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards gala event took place Friday, November 25, in the Metro Toronto Convention Centre's John Bassett Theatre, in downtown Toronto. The Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards are a highlight of the **Canadian Aboriginal Festival Week**, North America's largest multi-disciplinary Aboriginal arts event, taking place **November 21-27, 2005**.

The 2006 Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards will see some exciting changes. Amos Key Jr., who has been involved in the Awards since its inception, will join Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards Co-Founder Catherine Cornelius as Co-Executive Producer. Also next year, the 8th annual Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards gala event will take place in Winnipeg, Manitoba, on November 3, 2006.

The Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards are generously supported by Newcap Broadcasting, Scotiabank, FACTOR, Casino Rama, Galaxie, the Canada Council for the Arts and EMI Music Canada.

The public can visit www.canab.com for complete details.

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2005 CANADIAN ABORIGINAL MUSIC AWARDS

WINNERS BY CATEGORY

Best Female Artist

Tagaq

Best Male Artist

Diga

Best Group or Duo

Burnt Project 1

Best Album of the Year

"1492 – 1975" - *Little Hawk*

Best Female Traditional/Cultural Roots Album

"Rattle & Drum" - *Asani*

Best Producer/Engineer

Producer: Juan Hernandez, Engineer: Jose (Triki) Trincado
For "Sinaa" - *Tagaq*

Best Instrumental Album

"Burn" - *Jason Burnstick & the Rhythm*

Best Folk Album

"1492–1975" - *Little Hawk*

Best Album Design

Oscar Poza & Montse

For "Sinaa" - *Tagaq*

Best Songwriter

Carl Quinn

For *Ni Ototem*, "Ni Ototem"

Best Rock Album

"Something to Dream Of" - *Forever*

Best Song/Single

"Spirit of Our People" - *Kimberly Dawn*

Best Television Program

"First Nation Invasion" – *Lisa Meeches & Kyle Irving*

Best Inuit Cultural Album

"Just Bea" - *Beatrice Deer*

Best Fiddle Album

"Southside of the Strings" - *Ryan D'Aoust*

Best Blues Album

"Family Thang" - *The Wolf Pack*

Best Pow Wow Album - Contemporary

"Back in the Day" – *Blackstone*

Best Music Video

"Something to Dream Of" - *Forever*

Best Rap or Hip Hop Album

"Apprentice to the Mystery" – *Eekwol*

Best Country Album

"Honky Tonk Heartache Blues" – *Hank Horton*

Best Pow Wow Album - Traditional

"Blackfoot Songs" - *Painted Horse*

Best Hand Drum Album

"Sweethearts Shuffle" - *Northern Cree*

Best International Album

“Skywoman” - *Joanne Shenandoah*

The Keeper of Traditions

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The Lifetime Contribution to Aboriginal Music

Willie Dunn

Music Industry Award

Brian Wright-McLeod

Galaxie Rising Stars Award

Ryan D’Aoust

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